

Five Leading Causes of Death:

The Hickman County Health Council members were provided with county specific data from 1996 concerning the leading causes of death. The list is as follows:

1. Diseases of the Heart
2. Malignant Neoplasms
3. Accidents and Adverse Effects
 Motor Vehicle Accidents
4. Cerebrovascular Disease
5. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
 (Includes bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma)

These are consistent with the leading causes of death across the state of Tennessee, as well as the United States.

Teen Pregnancy

Teen pregnancy in Hickman County increased from 1992 (with a rate of 35.4) to 1996 (with a rate of 48.2) per 1,000 females aged 15-17 years. For women between the ages of 15-19, Hickman County had higher pregnancy rates than the region or the state in 1996. Overall, Tennessee's teen pregnancy rate is declining. The rate decreased 3% from 1992 to 1994.

The problem of teen pregnancy is compounded by misconceptions. A prevalent misconception is that it is an adolescent problem when in fact it is an adult problem since 74% of the men involved in the pregnancies among women under 18 were not teens. Thirty-five percent are aged 18-19, and 39% are at least 20, according to the 1995 Guttmacher study on *Sex and America's Teenagers*. Teens are more likely than older women to have babies whose health is compromised at birth due to inadequate prenatal care. Low birth weight is more common to infants of teens than among babies born to women in their 20s. Teenagers who become parents are disadvantaged socially, economically and educationally.

Birth Data

Infant mortality (deaths within the first year following birth) and births to infants that are low-weight are important indicators of a community's health status.

Through presentations by the Community Development staff, the Health Council learned that in Hickman County, there were no infant deaths to the babies born to mothers ages 10-14 from 1992-1994. This is true for the South Central Region as well. Statewide the infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births) was highest in the 10-14 years